Misuse of Legal Protection by Private Booking Agencies

130. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh Government have brought to the notice of Government the misuse of legal protection by the private booking agencies given under the provision of the Railway Act; resulting in colossal loss of revenue to the State Exchequer on account of massive evasion of sales tax by the traders who transport their goods through the railways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government of Uttar Pradesh have written to the Ministry of Railways alleging evasion of sales tax by traders on consignments moved by rail through City Booking Agencies. Instructions have been issued to the City Booking Agencies to ensure that names and addresses of the consignors and consignees and full particulars of the consignment are properly filled in the forwarding notes. They have also been directed to extend full cooperation to the authorised sales tax officials to collect information from relevant railway records.

Prime Minister talks with Chinese Government

131. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the issues discussed with the Chinese Government during the recent visit of Prime Minister to that country, stating the outcome thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that three agreements were signed during this visit;

(c) if so, what are the main features of these agreements and what would be the impact on Indo-China political and diplomatic relations, particularly on Indian initiative in this regard;

(d) what follow up action has been taken by Government for normalisation of relations between the two countries; and

(e) on what basis and by when Indo-China border dispute is likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI). (a) to (e) Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made an official goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China from 19th-23rd December, 1988 at the invitation of Premier Li Peng of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

2. During his talks and meetings with the Chinese leaders, Prime Minister had a wide-ranging exchange of views and ideas on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. These discussions enhanced mutual understanding. Both sides agreed to restore, improve and develop good neighbourly and friendly relations between India and China on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

3. Earnest and in-depth discussions were held on the boundary question and it was agreed to settle this question through peaceful and friendly consultations.

4. During the visit, the two Governments signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the field on Science and Technology, the Agreement relating to Civil Air Transport and the Executive Programme for the years 1988, 1989 and 1990 under the Agreement for Cultural Cooperation.

Under the Science and Technology Agreement, the two sides have agreed to promote the exchange of scientists and scientific material and contacts between the scientific institutions of the two countries. The Civil Air Transport Agreement incorporates the principles for the eventual operation of direct flights between the two countries. The Agreement contains articles relating to aviation security, traffic right, technical halts and overflight rights Under the Cultural Exchange Programme, some 55 items in the fields of culture and arts, cultural heritage and archaeology, education, broadcasting, films and television, press and publications, sports and social sciences have been identified. It is expected that the development of relations between India and China in these fields will be in the fundamental interests of the peoples of both countires. Among the concrete steps being taken following the Prime Minister's visit to China are the establishment of a Joint Working Group on the boundary question and a Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade and Science and Technology. The Joint Working Group will be headed on the Indian side by the Foreign Secretary and on the Chinese side by the Vice Foreign Minister. The Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade and Science and Technology will be headed on the Indian side by the Commerce Minister and on the Chinese side by the Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. Among the actions being initiated consequent to the visit are further exchanges at academic, governmental and other levels, which will take place in the coming weeks.

5. The boundary question between India and China is complex. Both Governments have expressed their determination to arrive at a fair, reasonable and mutual acceptable settlement of the boundary question in a realistic and positive spirit and to make brisk progress towards the achievement of this goal.

Removal of a Passenger from the Aircraft

132. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in 'the Indian Express' dated 24th January, 1989 regarding removal of a Bombay bound passenger from the aircraft for his protest against the misbehaviour of an air hostess of the Indian Airlines flight;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the reported incident; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has had an investigation conducted which has revealed that on flight IC-493 on the 18th of January, 1989, a passenger on seat No. 16D complained that his seat was defective and could not be brought an upright position. Another passenger seated on seat No. 16A started shouting, misbehaving and using abusive language at the airhostess, in support of the passenger seated on seat No. 16D. The passenger continued to be difficult. Many passengers have given statements asserting that the passenger was very unreasonable and under the influence of alcohol. The matter was reported to the Commander who attempted to pacify the passenger without success. The Commander, therefore, had no option but to off-load the passenger at Ahmedabad. According to Indian Airlines the contention that the passenger was off-loaded because he protested against the misbehaviour of the airhostess is, therefore, not correct.

Indian Airlines has issued a rejoinder published in 'the Indian Express' issue of the 26th of January, 1989.